

SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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This Diwali let's celebrate Light, not Pollution, Gangtok MLA appeals

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 16 OCT: Firecrackers have been embedded in our culture of festivals, especially Diwali. Childhood memories of this festival are also mostly about firecrackers. Diwali meant extravagant explosions, and little about the worship of Lakshmi, the triumph of good over evil or the return of Lord Ram from exile. It is not an easy task to set apart the festival from the practice of bursting firecrackers that has developed over time but we must try.

So goes the appeal of Gangtok MLA, Pintso Chopel Lepcha, who, in a message circulated today, has appealed on all to "reclaim the festival of lights and celebrate it as one."

"Why put our health and the overall environment at risk for the momentary 'fun' in bursting firecrackers," the MLA underlines.

He goes on to highlight that under the leadership Chief Minister Pawan Chamling, Sikkim has been recognized in the country and the world as a pioneer in terms of environment-friendly initiatives, and appeals that the people further strengthen this eco-friendly image.

"Let us truly celebrate the triumph of good over evil this Diwali and spread the light of knowledge that firecrackers are no good and say yes to Clean and Green Sikkim," he has appealed.

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As the Yangang PHC episode blows bigger, Deptt clarifies and opinions fly

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 16 OCT:

A video posted on social media where one KL Timsina is seen writing an apology letter to a government doctor, Kanu Priya Rai who later asks the man to also hold his ears in apology has caused a stir in the state. After going viral on social media here over the past few days, today, some national TV news channels picked up the video and telecast it, projecting it as a case of official high-handedness and intimidation. Similar opinions are also being aired on comments threads.

The incident occurred on 07 Oct at Yangang Primary Health Centre and police personnel along with some others are also seen in the video. Following the incident, Mr Timsina is said to have taken ill and was admitted in a hospital. He was later arrested by the police based on an FIR filed by the doctor and has been under police custody since, his bail

petition being heard by the district court.

The doctor has alleged that Mr Timsina barged into the hall where a training was underway and started shouting at her and making demeaning and intimidating gestures. He was reportedly demanding that a patient known to him admitted at the Yangang PHC be attended to immediately.

Mr Timsina is said to have questioned the doctor, who is the Medical Officer of Yangang PHC, for not attending to a patient, a teenager who was suffering from fever and headache.

There is no clarity on what exactly happened that day except for what it led to - the video footage showing Mr Timsina apologizing, therefore a large section of the public have expressed outrage against the doctor for humiliating Mr Timsina in public.

This also led to the Health department ordering a "thorough enquiry" into the incident

by setting up a two-member committee comprising of DHS, Dr Uttam Pradhan and District Medical Superintendent-District Hospital, Namchi, Dr DC Sharma.

In a press release issued today, the Health Department informs that after conducting thorough enquiry involving speaking with those present at the PHC on the day and the public of the area, the enquiry committee found that Mr Timsina was a "habitual nuisance creator" and that the doctor was doing her duty of ensuring that the functioning of primary health facilities is not disrupted.

"She has done her duty by lodging FIR against Mr Timsina who obstructed public servant from performing her duty," the release states.

About the video, the department has said that it "is a misrepresentation of the actual fact to mislead and instigate the general public to malign the entire medical fraternity and doctors at large."

These news items are targeted towards tarnishing the image and reputation of the health system and the state doctors, the release adds.

Investigations are underway while Dr Kanu Priya Rai has been directed to join her duty at Yangang PHC, the Department has said. Further, it has also reiterated that in future anybody obstructing medical officers and staff in performing their duties will be dealt with strictly as per law.

Meanwhile, the online space continues to rage over the incident and even political parties and politicians have commented on the issue, each strictly divided into two camps. Now that the case does not appear anywhere close being "settled" out of court, guess it will have to be for the lawyers and the courts to work out the sequence of events and context as close to what might have actually transpired that day at Yangang PHC.

State fails to file counter to POCSO convict's appeal in Supreme Court

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 16 OCT:

The state government has failed to file a counter affidavit to a special leave petition filed in the Supreme Court by Kumar Ghimirey of South Sikkim who was convicted on charges of sexually assaulting a minor in 2014.

The accused is serving a jail term at Namchi District Jail since he was arrested by Temi Police in 2014.

He had filed a special leave petition in the Apex Court challenging the judgment of the High Court. However, the state government has failed to file its response despite being provided three opportunities.

The Apex Court, on 09 Oct, in its order has said that, "Sole respon-

dent has not filed counter affidavit, despite last and final opportunity having been granted. Further opportunity is declined."

It has further directed the Apex Court Registry to process the matter for listing before the Hon'ble Court, as per rules.

It may be recalled that on 20 Feb 2014, Temi Police Station had registered a case against the accused under Sections 376/ 511/ 341/ 342 of the IPC read with Section 4 of the POCSO Act for attempting to sexually assault a seven-year-old girl child while she was returning home from school. The High Court of Sikkim, apart from upholding the sentence, had also enhanced the prison term from seven to ten years.

Centre allows continued deployment of 800 paramilitary personnel in Darj Hills

NEW DELHI, OCT 16 (PTI): Faced with opposition from the West Bengal government, the Centre today allowed continued deployment of 800 paramilitary personnel in Darjeeling to maintain law and order in the hill areas.

As of now, 15 companies of paramilitary forces were deployed in Darjeeling and the cen-

tral government wanted to withdraw 10 of them for deployment in other places for duties during festival season, a Home Ministry official said.

However, as the state government wanted to deploy the forces for more time, the home ministry, after a fresh assessment, decided to withdraw just seven

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27 of 111 Zillas and 536 of 1038 Wards uncontested, no nominations in 2 Wards

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 16 OCT:

State Election Commission, Sikkim, in a press release, has published today the district-wise details of contesting and uncontested candidates in all the four districts as per the withdrawal of candidatures for the Zilla and Gram Panchayat elections.

In 294 Wards including 11 Wards of Navey Sotak & Lingdok Namphong in East District, 162 candidates were uncontested with 132 contesting candidates. For 32 Zillas including Navey Sotak & Lingdok Namphong of East, 08 candidates remained un-

contested with 24 contesting candidates.

For 348 Wards of West District, 136 candidates were uncontested with 211 contesting candidates. No nomination was filed from Orange Village Ward under Siktam Tikipur GPU. In 31 Zillas of East, 05 candidates remained uncontested with 26 contesting candidates.

For 113 Wards excluding Navey Sotak & Lingdok Namphok of North District, 90 candidates were uncontested with 22 contesting candidates. No nomination was filed from Nampatam Ward under Ringhim. For its 20 Zillas excluding two Zillas of Navey

Sotak & Lingdok Namphong, 07 candidates were uncontested and 13 contested.

For 283 Wards of South District, 148 candidates were uncontested and 135 contesting candidates. In 28 Zillas, 07 candidates remained uncontested with 21 contesting candidates.

Out of the total 1040 Wards, 02 Wards namely Orange Village Ward under Siktam Tikipur GPU, West District and Nampatam Ward under Ringhim Nampatam under North District, are not going to have elections because of non-nomination for which elections will be held later, the release informs.

EQUIP convenes third Steering Committee Meeting, resolves to flesh out plans for 'hybrid schools'

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 16 OCT:

The 3rd Steering Committee Meeting of the Educational Quality Improvement Programme [EQUIP] was held today at the conference hall of Human Resource Development Department, Gangtok. An EQUIP press release informs that the meet was chaired by Co-Chairman of EQUIP, PD Rai, and the Member Secretary of the Steering Committee, GP Upadhyaya.

A presentation on the programme report since the Steering Committee Meeting held on 11 July and plan of action till the last Steering Committee Meeting of 2017 in December was presented by Programme Director, Komal Chamling.

She highlighted the programme updates, issues faced in programme management as well as updates on outcomes from the last meeting such as the progress in building a pool of EQUIP Associates to support the schools in 2018, Assessment plan, etc.

New members of the Project Management Unit, Anthony Rimai, Anushya Pradhan, Kursongkit Lepcha, Shweta Jangir, provided an overview of the upcoming EQUIP Circle Conference on 08-09 Nov.

A plan of communication was presented by new members, Kursongkit Lepcha and Anushya Pradhan.

An overview of the Executive Board meetings of EQUIP, which takes place on a monthly basis, was given by Chairman-Executive Board, Dr Rabin. He also talked about the Steering Committee as a platform for

HRDD officials, PMU and education sector stakeholders to talk about larger education systemic issues in the State.

The proposal put up by Principal-TNA, General Pillai, about 'hybrid schools' wherein the government aids the school but gives autonomy for running day-to-day activities,

was discussed. A complete plan on autonomy will be brought to the Steering Committee in December, the release adds.

Dr Shantiram Adhikari presented a preliminary study on perception of principals from government schools on the issue of autonomy. This study will be expanded and proposal is to be made to the committee in December.

The other members present were Rajrani Sharma [Welfare Department], Doma Zimba [Principal, Tadong Senior Secondary School], Bhim Thatal [Director-SSA], MT Sherpa [Director-RMSA], Tshering Bhutia [Principal-DIET East] and Sonam Doma Topden [Joint Director-SSA].

A critical issue flagged by the participants was also the multiple programmes that take place in parallel due to which the schools are left with little choice but to send their teachers to different trainings and programmes at the expense of their work at school.

A decision was taken to create an annual plan of trainings and programmes for the year by each Directorate to make planning smoother for the schools.

Identity Cards for Panchayat election candidates on 17-18 Oct

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 16 OCT:

A press release issued by Returning Officer-East in connection with the Election to Zilla Panchayat Territorial Constituencies/Gram Panchayat Wards informs that contesting candidates can receive their candidates' identity cards from District Administrative Centre in Sichey on 17-18 Oct. They can also submit their forms for the appointment of Election agents. Each candidate may appoint only one agent.

All the officials and staff who have been appointed as polling personnel need to submit their Form 12 at DAC, Sichey at the earliest to enable issuing of postal ballot papers.

The release further informs that total number of uncontested Zilla Panchayat Territorial Constituencies and Gram Panchayat Wards are 08 and 162 respectively. Accordingly total number of Zilla Panchayat Territorial Constituencies and Gram Panchayat Wards contesting for the election are 24 and 132 respectively.

A total of 1400 polling personnel have been appointed for the said elections for which the first round of training has been scheduled on 23-24 Oct.

Further approximately 394 EVMs shall be prepared and commissioned on 25-26 Oct to be used for the poll on 03 Nov. The total number of polling stations in the district where poll will be conducted is 235.

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Centre allows continued deployment of 800 paramilitary personnel in Darj Hills

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companies and allowed the remaining eight companies to remain in the hill areas.

A company of paramilitary comprises around 100 personnel.

As the situation has become relatively calm, the local police should take over, the official said.

He said there were demands from other states also as festivals are coming up and there will be elections in Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat. "The central forces cannot be converted into local police," he said.

Yesterday, the home ministry had ordered withdrawal of 1,000 paramilitary personnel,



IHRAO submits demand letter to five Banks at Rangpo

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 16 OCT:

International Human Rights & Anti-crime Organization [IHRAO], Sikkim Unit, submitted a three-point demand letter to branches of five banks in the Rangpo area today, a press release informs.

National vice president, Chhotelal Prasad, national general secretary, Tanvir Ahamed, Sikkim state unit president, Ganesh Sharma, secretary,

Santosh Gurung, publicity in-charge, Sanjay Agarwal, east district president, Haider Ali, Joint Secretary, Laal Babu Gupta, and member, Bimal Thakur, met with the management of Axis Bank, HDFC, State Bank of India, Central Bank of India and UCO Bank, Rangpo, and discussed the problems faced by the residents of the area due to poor ATM services in the area.

It is mentioned in the

release that five banks offer ATM services with claims of providing 24/7 services written on big boards but none actually provide such service.

The Axis Bank ATM has been shut down for approximately four months while the CBI ATM is empty most of the time. UCO and HDFC Bank ATMs open only on alternate days. Villagers come to withdraw money from the ATM early in

the morning but have to return empty handed because ATMs are cashless, the release alleges.

It is further mentioned in the release that the Rs 10 coin has also been creating problems in the market. The Banks are issuing the coin to the public but are refusing to take the coin back in deposits which has further led to the public feeling that the coins are duplicates. The IHRAO has de-

manded proper arrangement for circulation of the Rs 10 coin.

In their third point on the letter, the organization has demanded participation and active support from the Banks in community and social programmes.

All the five Banks have assured to forward these problems to the higher authority and solve the problems at the earliest.

Meeting between Sector Magistrates and candidates held in South

NAMCHI, 16 OCT [IPR]: A meeting with the contesting candidates was held at the various wards by the concerned Sector Magistrate alongside sector police officers in South District today.

During the meeting, various points were discussed in brief namely polling stations list, postal ballots arrangements, commissioning of EVM on 26-27 Oct, first round training of polling officers on 24-25 Oct, second round training on 28-29 Oct, permissions regarding meeting and display of banners and hoardings, mike and rally permission from Superintendent of Police-South, dispatch of polling parties on 02 Nov, sensitive polling stations, contact details of sector Magistrates and sector Police officers, Control Room numbers, observers number, voter slip issuing arrangements and appointment of BLO, replacement of defective EVMs,



arrangements of mock poll on the poll day, arrangements for counting, appointment of election agent by ARO concerned and Identify Cards for candidates to be taken from the Dis-

trict Collector's office.

In the course of the meeting, it was informed that the uncontested candidates can get certificates from the DC's office any time. The contesting candidates

will be informed via SMS regarding important events. Additionally, the candidates have also been updated that canvassing will not be allowed near polling stations.

Certificates handed to panchayats elected uncontested in South Sikkim



NAMCHI, 16 OCT [IPR]:

The Election Officials handed over the certificates of election to the uncontested candidates from the South district. As these candidates have stood uncontested they have been duly elected by the respective ward/constituency of Gram Panchayat/Zilla Panchayat.

The South Panchayat Returning Officer, Raj Yadav, informed that the distribution of the election certificates will continue till 18 Oct.

Additionally, there

are a total of 283 wards in South District where in a total number of 283 polling stations were identified out of which 50 polling stations are there where both wards and territorial constituency are uncontested. Hence, no polling party will be sent there.

In the 233 polling stations, the polling parties will be sent either for Zilla or Panchayat or both which will be decided accordingly. Vehicle requisition, Manpower and Security arrangements will be done, it is informed.



World Students' Day observed at Tibuk JHS

WANGCHUK BHUTIA

MANGAN, 16 OCT:

World Students' Day was observed at Tibuk Junior High School in Mangshila, North Sikkim on 15 Oct with Advisor-Health Department, Akardhoj Subba, as chief guest, along with area MLA, Sonam Gyatso Lepcha, Zilla Adhakhya-North, Anguli Lepcha, former Panchayat Secretary, Ongdup Bhutia, and social worker of Lingmoo, MB Limboo.

Students of feeder schools performed a colourful cultural programme while Yoga presentation was showcased by students of Swayem JHS.

A JHS level quiz competition was also conducted with the participation of students

of EMRS Swayem, Mangshila Senior Secondary School, Tingchem Secondary School, Namok JHS, Lalak JHS, Rangrang JHS. The competition was won by EMRS Swayem.

On this occasion, the final match of Late Ralli Limboo Men's Open Football tourney was played between 7 Brother White and Gnon Sangdong wherein 7 Brother White emerged victorious 1-0. A cash prize of Rs 50,000 was awarded to the winner along with the champion's trophy while Rs 30,000 was presented to the runner up team.

Social worker MB Limboo was also felicitated during the event for sponsoring the beautification of Tibuk JHS in memory of his parents.

SummitTIMES

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**Gangtok on
Tuesday,
17 Oct**

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sunny and not as
warm with show-
er in places.

Sunrise: 05:36 AM

Sunset: 05:05 PM



Health officials inspect Singtam and surrounding areas

YOGEN THATAL SINGTAM, 16 OCT: A team of officials from Health Department conducted an inspection-cum-awareness drive on Dengue in and around Singtam Bazaar today.

The team included Additional Director, Dr P Giri, staff from NVBDCP, Gangtok, along with Chief Medical Officer-Singtam District Hospital, Dr T Laden, Municipal Executive Officer, Himmat Rai, President-Singtam Nagar Panchayat, SK Pradhan, and others.

During the inspection, one of the shops located at Lal Bazaar was fined Rs. 5,000 by MEO, Mr Rai, for not keeping the premises clean and hygienic.

The health officers also found that some tea shops in Singtam were not maintaining some instructions issued by the officials of Food and Civil Supplies Department under the Food Safety Act and, thus, have been given a warning of license cancellation if the instructions are not carried out well at the earliest.

The officials while further inspecting the location from where a case of Dengue has been registered found the area to be infested with mosquitoes. The person affected with the disease has been directed to visit Singtam Hospital for treatment.

Kick-boxer Sushmita Rai named Beti Bachao brand ambassador for North Sikkim

SAGAR CHETTRI

GANGTOK, 16 OCT:

International kick-boxer from Sikkim, Sushmita Rai, has been appointed as the Brand Ambassador for Beti Bachao Beti Padhao programme for North Sikkim.

On the occasion of International Day for the Girl Child and Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Week on 14 Oct at Mangan, North District Administration announced that name of Sushmita Rai as the Brand Ambassador for Beti Bachao Beti Padhao programme.

The District Adminis-



tration also felicitated Ms Rai for her achievements and for winning laurels and medals for the country in international competitions. The District Administration

recognized her as the brand ambassador for inspiring and motivating the youth especially girls of Sikkim with her achievements.

Ms Rai expressed immense happiness on getting such an honour from the North District Administration. She assured to continue with her hard work to further inspire and motivate the youth especially girls of Sikkim.

She is presently preparing to represent India in the upcoming WAKO World Kickboxing Championship to be held in November at Budapest, Hungary.

Bus service between Nepal's Rolpa and New Delhi begins

KATHMANDU, OCT 16

[PTI]: A direct once a week bus service was today commenced between Rolpa district in Nepal and Indian capital New Delhi, a media report said.

The Delhi-bound bus will travel via Liwang in Rolpa, Pyuthan, Bhaluwang and Nepalgunj, the Himalayan Times reported. The bus will leave from Liwang, some 280 km west of Kathmandu, on Wednesdays. In return journey, the bus would start from New Delhi on Fridays, it said.

Four marathoners felicitated by ICFAI

SANDEEP PRASAD

GANGTOK, 16 OCT:

As part of its annual marathon ICFAI Sikkim Runathon 2017 scheduled to be held on 12 Nov, ICFAI University Sikkim organized a felicitation programme today for four marathoners of the State, the Marathon Man Amar Subba, the Samdong Express Shanti Ram Nepal, the Flying Sikkimese Chung Tshering Bhutia and the Young Sailor Abhishek Prasad Gupta.

It may be mentioned here, ICFAI University is organizing this year's edition of their annual marathon with the theme 'Run to Stop Drug Abuse' on 12 Nov. The event offers 21 KM and 05 KM marathon with age criteria set as 15 years & above for school students and 16 years and above for Open category along with cash prize of Rs 7500, Rs 5000 and Rs 3000 for the winner, first runner up and second runner up, respectively. The registration fee for school students is Rs 50 and for participants of open category is Rs 500.

The marathon will kick start from Paljor Stadium in Gangtok on 12 Nov and will continue towards Manbir Colony, Tashi



View Point, Eco Park and back to Paljor Stadium.

Marathon Coordinator, Nyima Tenzing [Assistant Professor-ICFAI], while addressing media persons today said, "We are extremely proud of these four felicitated marathoners amongst us. Our students and faculty members are very ex-

cited to listen to their tales of experience. As a gesture of our appreciation we have presented each of them with a commendation frame reminding them of how proud we all are for what they have achieved so far and continued excellence. On this special and momentous occasion, we will be

officially launching the ICFAI RUNATHON 2017 poster in the august presence of the legends. Post this event, the registration forms for the run will be available for downloading from our website."

Also present during the function was Registrar-ICFAI, Sonam Tshering Venchungpa.



Auditions held for Sikkim-E-Culture Swar 2017

ARPAN PRADHAN

GANGTOK, 16 OCT:

A musical competition, Sikkim-E-Culture Swar 2017, being organised by U-First Magazine in association with Reeyaz Sangeetalaya, Gangtok, had its 3rd and 4th rounds of auditions in Namchi on 14-15 Oct. The Namchi audition was organised for the participants of South and West Districts which had more than 50 participants auditioning for the event.

The 1st round of auditions for Sikkim-E-Culture Swar 2017 was held in Gangtok recently for the participants of North and East Districts.

The audition rounds are being judged by Director-Reyaz Sangeetalaya, Manoj Rai, accompanied by Namchi Branch Head of Reeyaz Sangeetalaya, Pawan Rai.

One of the organisers

of the event, Pravin Rizal, informed that the Sikkim-E-Culture Swar 2017 is being organised in order to provide a good platform to young and talented singers from all corners of the State.

The competition aims at encouraging singing and musical talents of the State to come forward and showcase their talent and also to provide them exposure in the field of music.

The grand finale of the competition will be held in January next year. Before the finale, the selected participants will have to go through various selection processes which also includes online voting. The winner of the Sikkim-E-Culture Swar 2017 will get an opportunity to record a music video, a free music course at Reeyaz Sangeetalaya and a cash prize.

Two-day Media Festival begins at Sikkim University

REBYNA RANA

GANGTOK, 16 OCT:

The Department of Mass Communication, Sikkim University, is organizing a two-day Media Festival here at Cauvery Hall in Tadong which will conclude on 17 Oct at Manan Kendra.

The inaugural programme today featured speeches made by special guests on media and media related activities.

Registrar, TK Kaul, congratulated the students for organizing the festival which is the first of its kind in Sikkim University.

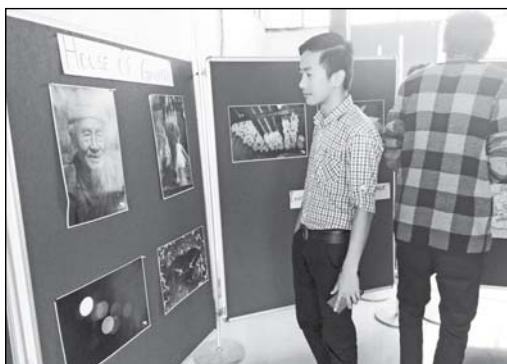
Simultaneously, Finance Offi-

cer, Debashish Pal, said that media plays a vital role and has a great impact in the society.

"You are the new generation. Working in media requires a lot of research work before highlighting any story," added Mr Pal.

Dean-Social Science, Professor NK Pawan, and Vice Principal of Salesian College, Sonada, Father CN Paul, also delivered speeches.

The program was categorized into two events, cultural and literary, the finals of which will be held on 17 Oct at Manan Kendra.



Annual conference of East Zone Indian Psychiatry Society concludes

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 16 OCT:

Sikkim State Branch of Indian Psychiatry Society in collaboration with Sikkim Manipal Institute of Medical Sciences hosted an annual conference of East Zone Indian Psychiatry Society [CEZIPS 2017] at SMIMS in Tadong from 14-16 Oct, a press release informs.

The inaugural function was attended by Member of Parliament, PD Rai, as chief guest along with Vice Chancellor-SMU, Lieutenant General Dr Venkatesh, General Secretary-IPS National body, Dr Gautam Saha, President-East Zone IPS, Dr HR Phookun, Secretary-East Zone IPS, Dr RK Lenin, and Vice President-East Zone IPS, Dr Sanjiba Dutta.

Organizing Secretary-CEZIPS 2017, Dr Satish Rasaily, informed that IPS was established in 1929 to promote the field of psychiatry and mental health and has more than 4000 fellow members representing all the States of India. The IPS



holds National, Zonal and state conferences every year in select States and has entrusted the 14 psychiatrists of Sikkim to organize this mega event in Sikkim, he added.

Chief guest Mr Rai welcomed all the delegates to the Organic State of India.

"Sikkim against Alcohol, Ad-

diction towards Healthy India [SAATHI] initiatives were started to address adolescent health issues particularly substance abuse & mental health. The project was implemented as pilot project in Deorali and Tadong School initially based on the concept of peer educators. Motivated by positive out-

come in these schools, SAATHI has been extended to 70 schools in Sikkim. Therefore, SAATHI model can be adopted by other States to promote mental wellbeing in schools," said Mr Rai in his address.

Guest of honour Lt Gen Dr Venkatesh informed that the theme adopted by CEZIPS 2017 "Com-

munity Psychiatry: Translating research into Practice" is very relevant in the context of mental health service development.

"There was an era where in people suffering with mental disorders were chained and restrained physically or incarcerated in institutions. Development of neuroscience and invention of new medicine has made it possible to treat mental disorder in the comfort of their environment without the need for long term hospitalization. Depression, mental disorders and substance abuse are becoming major health issues. Stigma, ignorance and lack of education surrounding mental disorders are major barriers that prevent community from seeking help," said Dr Venkatesh.

He urged all the psychiatrists to devise a strategy to take mental health service to primary health system.

Organizing Chairperson, Dr Sanjiba Dutta, said that CEZIPS

is a platform to share knowledge, innovative ideas, clinical skills and new discovery and for promoting networking among peers for academic growth and development. Sikkim is hosting the CEZIPS for the second time after 8 years, he added. He shared that eminent speakers and experts from all over India are invited to deliberate on various topics for the benefit of psychiatrists and students.

A total of 18 scientific sessions by eminent speakers, award papers, oration, poster presentation, quiz competition will be conducted in the coming days, the release adds.

A cultural programme was also arranged in collaboration with Department of Culture, Government of Sikkim, to showcase Sikkim's tradition, culture and hospitality.

The conference was attended by 250 delegates from West Bengal, Orissa, Bihar, Jharkhand and North East India.

SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

Keeping Minors Safe

Identify and punish the sexual predators, and then ensure safe spaces for the young

This newspaper reported yesterday about the arrest of a 64-year-old on charges of having raped a teenager. Details of the case are not at hand, but the complaint contends that the child had been raped on multiple occasions by the accused. The trauma that she must have suffered and the frustration she must have experienced when no one noticed the repeated assaults will require careful long-term counseling for her to regain her composure and faith in others. One hopes that such assistance is being provided to her. What this incident also reminds us is that a majority of the rapes are committed by people known to the victim or having some form of power over her. This makes it difficult for the victims to report the incidents and has been known to be the cause why they are often advised to keep quiet about it even when they open up to someone. When it comes to minors, such advice has been made illegal under the provisions of the Protection Of Children from Sexual Offences Act. Under this new law, those who learn of minors being sexually molested or abused and still do not report the crime are held culpable of having abetted the offence. It is important that this provision of the law is more widely circulated and also enforced to ensure that the common instinct of "settling" the matter is not allowed. Children also need to be made aware of protections available to them and reassured that any behaviour they find uncomfortable will be stopped and penalised the moment they speak up. The series of POCSO Act awareness sessions at schools across the State have already led to students outing sexual predators who have been preying on them or their friends and now it is for the elders to ensure that these depraved individuals receive the punishment that they deserve.

While this approach ensure that the accused are identified and punished by law, the number of such incidents also demand that more is done to keep the children safe. The teenaged victim mentioned earlier is not the first minor to be so abused in Sikkim and there are many victims much younger than her who have also suffered abuse. While there are no fool-proof safety nets to protect our minors from sexual depravity that preys on them, there is too much wrong happening around us for the people and the government not to address the problem beyond what the law alone provides. Awareness is important, but what is also crucial is for the young to be provided safe spaces. Minors left unattended at home is the first aberration that strikes here. Most cases on sexual assaults on minors have been coming in from rural areas of late, and this is probably because that is where children are more likely left unattended and beyond earshot. An obvious requirement for the State is to have more crèches where working parents can leave their children under better care and vigil while they leave to earn their bread. The records suggest that a substantial number of crèches and ICDS Centres are already in place. The need is for more working and single parents to be informed about these centres and maybe even a rule promulgated which attracts some form of penalty on parents who leave minors unattended for extended periods of time. For the slightly elder children, neighbourhood clubs and community rooms can be considered. Has anyone noticed that there are none in Sikkim?

Even as these options are explored, NGOs and their volunteers need to take a rest from funding agency awareness camps and workshops to actually spend some time in areas that need intervention – sensitization of parents about the predators who lurk in every locality. This is not about whipping up lynch mobs, but about getting parents sufficiently worried to recognise that children need stronger protection now and for neighbourhoods to also try and devise ways that the young are guaranteed safety.

WRITE US: Readers are invited to comment on, criticise, run down, even appreciate if they like something in this paper. Letters carrying abusive/indecent language and personal attacks, except when against people responsible in this newspaper (who are fair game), will have to be ignored. Letters which carry forward a conversation or initiate a dialogue will command immediate attention and receive prominence. Mail us at: letters@summittimes.com

How to combat racial bias: Start in childhood

GAIL HEYMAN
theconversation.com

Racial bias can seem like an intractable problem. Psychologists and other social scientists have had difficulty finding effective ways to counter it – even among people who say they support a fairer, more egalitarian society. One likely reason for the difficulty is that most efforts have been directed toward adults, whose biases and prejudices are often firmly entrenched.

My colleagues and I are starting to take a new look at the problem of racial bias by investigating its origins in early childhood. As we learn more about how biases take hold, will we eventually be able to intervene before any biases become permanent?

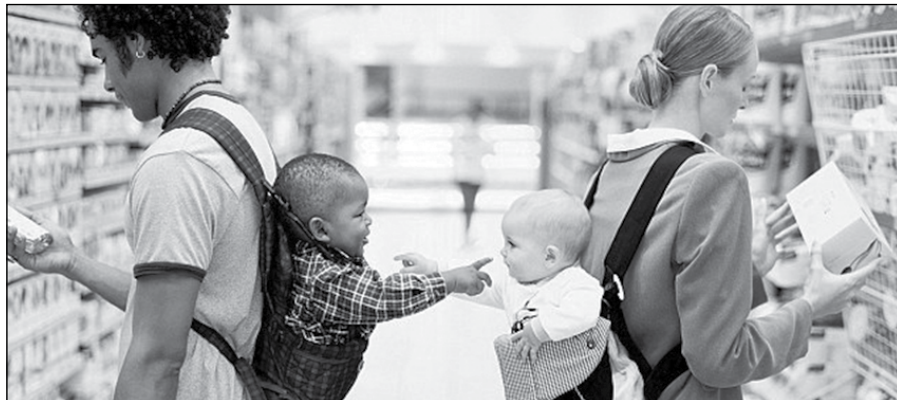
MEASURING RACIAL BIAS

When psychology researchers first began studying racial biases, they simply asked individuals to describe their thoughts and feelings about particular groups of people. A well-known problem with these measures of explicit bias is that people often try to respond to researchers in ways they think are socially appropriate.

Starting in the 1990s, researchers began to develop methods to assess implicit bias, which is less conscious and less controllable than explicit bias. The most widely used test is the Implicit Association Test, which lets researchers measure whether individuals have more positive associations with some racial groups than others. However, an important limitation of this test is that it only works well with individuals who are at least six years old – the instructions are too complex for younger children to remember.

Recently, my colleagues and I developed a new way to measure bias, which we call the Implicit Racial Bias Test. This test can be used with children as young as age three, as well as with older children and adults. This test assesses bias in a manner similar to the IAT but with different instructions.

Here's how a version of the test to detect an implicit bias that favors white people over black people would work: We show participants a series of black and white faces on a touchscreen device. Each photo is accompanied by a cartoon smile on



one side of the screen and a cartoon frown on the other.

In one part of the test, we ask participants to touch the cartoon smile as quickly as possible whenever a black face appears, and the cartoon frown as quickly as possible whenever a white face appears. In another part of the test, the instructions are reversed.

The difference in the amount of time it takes to follow one set of instructions versus the other is used to compute the individual's level of implicit bias. The reasoning is that it takes more time and effort to respond in ways that go against our intuitions.

DO YOUNG CHILDREN EVEN HAVE RACIAL BIASES?

Explicit racial biases have been documented in young children for many years. Researchers know that young children can also show implicit bias at the earliest ages that it has been measured, and often at rates that are comparable to those seen among adults.

Some studies suggest that precursors of racial bias can be detected in infancy. In one such study, researchers measured how long infants looked at faces of their own race or another race that were paired with happy or sad music. They found that 9-month-olds looked longer when the faces of their own race were paired with the happy music, which was different from the pattern of looking times for the other-race faces. This result suggests that the tendency to prefer faces that match one's own race begins

in infancy.

These early patterns of response arise from a basic psychological tendency to like and approach things that seem familiar, and dislike and avoid things that seem unfamiliar. Some researchers think that these tendencies have roots in our evolutionary history because they help people to build alliances within their social groups.

However, these biases can change over time. For example, young black children in Cameroon show an implicit bias in favor of black people versus white people as part of a general tendency to prefer in-group members, who are people who share characteristics with you. But this pattern reverses in adulthood, as individuals are repeatedly exposed to cultural messages indicating that white people have higher social status than black people.

A NEW APPROACH TO TACKLING BIAS

Researchers have long recognized that racial bias is associated with dehumanization. When people are biased against individuals of other races, they tend to view them as part of an undifferentiated group rather than as specific individuals. Giving adults practice at distinguishing among individuals of other races leads to a reduction in implicit bias, but these effects tend to be quite short-lived.

In our new research, we adapted this individuation approach for use with young children. Using a custom-built training app, young chil-

dren learn to identify five individuals of another race during a 20-minute session. We found that 5-year-olds who participated showed no implicit racial bias immediately after the training.

Although the effects of a single session were short-lived, an additional 20-minute booster session one week later allowed children to maintain about half of their initial bias reduction for two months. We are currently working on a game-like version of the app for further testing.

ONLY A STARTING POINT

Although our approach suggests a promising new direction for reducing racial bias, it is important to note that this is not a magic bullet. Other aspects of the tendency to dehumanize individuals of different races also need to be investigated, such as people's diminished level of interest in the mental life of individuals who are outside of their social group. Because well-intended efforts to reduce racial bias can sometimes be ineffective or produce unintended consequences, any new approaches that are developed will need to be rigorously evaluated.

And of course the problem of racial bias is not one that can be solved by addressing the beliefs of individuals alone. Tackling the problem also requires addressing the broader social and economic factors that promote and maintain biased beliefs and behaviors.

[the writer is Professor of Psychology, University of California, San Diego]

Funny people are more intelligent than their po-faced peers

LOWRI DOWTHWAITE
theconversation.com

Albert Einstein attributed his brilliant mind to having a child-like sense of humour. Indeed, a number of studies have found an association between humour and intelligence.

Researchers in Austria recently discovered that funny people, particularly those who enjoy dark humour, have higher IQs than their less funny peers. They argue that it takes both cognitive and emotional ability to process and produce humour. Their analysis shows that funny people have higher verbal and non-verbal intelligence, and they score lower in mood disturbance and aggressiveness.

Not only are funny people smart, they're nice to be around. Evidence suggests that having a good sense of humour is linked to high emotional intelligence and is a highly desirable quality in a partner. Evolutionary psychologists describe humour as a "heritable trait" that signals mental fitness and intellectual agility to prospective mates. In studies of attractiveness, both men and women rate funny people as more attractive, and cite having a good sense of humour as being one of the most important traits in a long-term partner.

In psychology we use the term "positive humour style" to refer to people who use humour to enhance relationships and reduce conflict. This type of humour is associated with relationship satisfaction, extroversion and high self-esteem. Having a humorous outlook on life is also a good coping strategy. It helps people better manage stress and adversity.

More negative humour styles, such as sarcasm, ridicule and self-defeating humour, do not offer the same benefits. Instead, they tend to alienate people and are more often associated with depressed mood and aggression.

Not only do funny people make other people laugh, they also laugh more themselves. And neurobiology shows that laughter leads to brain changes, which may explain the link between humour and intelligence.

Neuropsychological studies have found that experiencing positive emotional states, such as joy,



Rowan Atkinson, television's Mr. Bean, has an IQ of 178. An I.Q. between 90 and 110 is considered average; over 120, superior.

fun and happiness, increases the production of dopamine in the brain. Dopamine not only makes us feel great, it also opens up the learning centres of the brain, which enables and sustains more neural connections. As a result, we become more flexible and creative in our thinking, and better at solving problems. It also boosts our working memory.

HUMOUR FOR SUCCESS

Evidence suggests that humour actually boosts perceptions of confidence, competence and status, making funny people very influential. Humour gets people to listen, helps communicate messages and aids learning. It is a powerful tool that many successful leaders use to enhance group cohesiveness and organisational culture. Studies of positive organisations suggest the more fun we have at work the more productive we are, and the less likely we

are to suffer burn-out.

The "broaden and build" theory also supports the idea that experiencing positive emotions through humour actually alters our thoughts, actions and physiological responses. It creates a virtuous circle effect that enhances well-being.

Research on the use of humour in education also supports the notion that humour is an effective aid to learning. Several studies have demonstrated that lessons that are delivered with humour are more enjoyable for students, and also enhance students' comprehension and recall of the topic.

Given the host of benefits that being funny brings, perhaps we could all benefit from joining a stand-up comedy workshop. It seems like the smart thing to do.

[the writer is Lecturer in Psychological Interventions, University of Central Lancashire]



Centre yet to approve greenfield airport: Pema Khandu

ITANAGAR, Oct 16 (PTI): Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu today said that the Centre is yet to approve and allocate funds for construction of the greenfield airport in the state capital despite recommendation of the government in favour of the Hollongi site.

"The matter is lingering for the past 10 years and the state government has been pursuing the matter with the Ministry of Civil Aviation," Khandu said in response to a question raised by Congress MLA Nabam Tuki during the question hour in the Assembly.

The state cabinet on May 18 this year had selected Hollongi as the site for the proposed airport, he said.

The state government so far has not received any specific inputs from the ministry, he added.

Cycling expedition to commemorate 'The battle of Namka Chu'

MATHURA, Oct 16 (PTI): A five-day cycling expedition was flagged off by Lt. Gen. Ranbir Singh here today to commemorate 55 years of 'The Battle of Namka Chu' with China in 1962.

Traversing through Agra, Firozabad, Shikohabad, Mainpuri, Fatehgarh, the expedition would terminate at Shahjahanpur after covering a distance of 336 kms.

"Covering half-a-dozen districts, the 20-member team, including three officers and two JCOs, would complete its expedition on October 20," Lt. Gen. Singh said.

The team, during the course of their expedition, would interact with school/college students to spread awareness about the battle and narrate the valiant effort by the Indian Army in safeguarding the territorial integrity of the nation.

"The team would also interact with the veterans and ex-servicemen, to address their grievances," he added.

The 'Battle of Namka Chu' began on October 10, 1962, and continued till November 16.

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Centre conspiring to destabilise Bengal: Mamata

KOLKATA, Oct 16 (PTI): West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee today urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh not to pull security forces out of the Darjeeling hills and accused the Centre of "conspiring to destabilise" the state.

Banerjee said she had sent letters to Modi and Singh on the withdrawal of the Central forces.

"I have written to the prime minister and the home minister and asked them not to withdraw the forces from the hills," she told a press conference at the state secretariat here after an all-party meeting



on Darjeeling. Describing the withdrawal decision as unilateral and unfortunate, Banerjee said, "The Central govern-

ment is being run from the BJP party office. It is really unfortunate that the Central government has taken such a bad decision unilaterally to withdraw forces from the hills".

She accused the Centre and BJP of hatching a conspiracy.

"They are conspiring to destabilise Bengal so that violence keeps on occurring," she said.

The Centre has said it will withdraw 10 of the 15 companies in the region, she added.

"Union Home minister Rajnath Singh told me seven companies would be withdrawn. I want to ask why this step- motherly attitude towards Bengal when

huge numbers of Central forces are deployed in other states," she said.

Accusing BJP's Darjeeling MP S S Ahluwalia of helping fugitive GJM supremo Bimal Gurung foment trouble in the region, she said the BJP was allowing the hills to "burn for the sake of a seat".

The all-party meeting decided to work together for the restoration of peace in the hills. It was attended by several hill parties excluding the Jan Andolan Party (JAP).

Banerjee said the next such meeting would be held on November 21 at Pintail village in Darjeeling district.



Interschool zonal cricket in Mangan

SUMMIT REPORT MANGAN, 15 OCT:

The 1st U-14 and U-16 Interschool Zonal Cricket Tournament 2017 organized by the Sikkim Cricket Association in co-ordination with the District Cricket Association is underway here at Mangan Public Ground, North Sikkim, today.

Today's match had Forest Minister,

Tshering Wangdi Lepcha, accompanied by the SCA president, Lobzang W Tenzing, SCA officials and district officers.

The final match was played under the U-14 category between Southwest Zone and Northeast Zone which was won by the latter team. The U-16 title was won by the South District team which defeated East District.

SDF hits back at Madhav for his caustic remarks on Chamling

GANGTOK, Oct 16 (PTI): The Sikkim Democratic Front (SDF) today hit back at senior BJP leader Ram Madhav for his caustic remarks on the Pawan Chamling government and the ruling party.

"BJP leader (Ram Madhav) should know that Chamling is the senior-most Chief Minister whom the people of Sikkim have elected to power for four consecutive terms," SDF spokesperson Bhim Dahal said in statement.

Under Chamling's able leadership, Sikkim remains the most peaceful state of the country and has done well on various parameters of development and welfare, he said.

In view of these facts, by mocking the SDF as the 'Sikkim Dictatorial Party', Madhav has "insulted" the people and their mandate to the premier regional party of the state, Dahal said.

Slamming Madhav for his 'uncalled for' out-

burst against Sikkim's ruling party, the SDF spokesman reminded the senior BJP leader that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had lavished fulsome praise on Chamling during his Sikkim visit last year.

Dahal also hit out at the BJP-led NDA government at the Centre for not approving four outstanding demands of Sikkim - grant of ST status to 13 castes, reservation of seats for tribal Limboo and Tamang in the state legislature, income tax exemption to traders settled in Sikkim for generations and permission to Buddhist spiritual leader Karmapa Ugen Thinley to visit Sikkim.

The senior SDF leader asked BJP to refrain from indulging in rhetoric and come up with a substantive policy about socio-economic development of Sikkim if it nurses political ambition in the hill state.

Ram Madhav, the BJP

national general secretary and in-charge of Jammu and Kashmir and North-East, had yesterday dubbed Chamling's party as the "Sikkim Dictatorial Front" (SDF) and said that the BJP and other regional parties will strive to give a strong alternative to the ruling dispensation in the next assembly polls in 2019.

"The SDF is Sikkim Dictatorial Front (SDF) actually," Madhav had said and charged "Chamling's party with terrorism, the opposition parties by using all means to prevent creation of a strong alternative to it."

"We have found good governance lacking in Sikkim..."

there is also a lot of corruption even as development is also lacking," Madhav had said.

The senior BJP leader had also held closed door meeting with the Chamling's estranged younger brother and Independent MLA R N Chamling.

Arunachal to take up small tea growers' plight with Centre

ITANAGAR, Oct 16 (PTI): The Arunachal Pradesh Assembly today adopted a resolution to pursue the long pending issue of small tea growers of the state with the Centre.

The Supreme Court order of December 12, 1996 banning timber operation to check deforestation, had affected the tea growers to cultivate tea even in their own land.

The Assembly also resolved to urge the Centre to constitute a joint committee comprising officials from the union government, state government and Tea Board of India which would recommend measures to address the issues of registration of the small tea growers in a time bound manner, preferably within three months.

The Assembly adopted the resolution following a private member resolution brought by BJP MLA Gabriel Denwang Wangsu on the sufferings of the small tea growers of the state due to Forest Conservation Act, 1980 and the Supreme Court order.

Wangsu lamented that after the Supreme Court order, the Government of India had made mandatory for the tea growers to acquire NOC from the union Environment and Forest Ministry to get them registered with the Tea Board of India.

"No significant initiative has been taken so far to mitigate the problems of the small tea growers of the state as they are facing problem to get the NOC and register with

the Tea Board for getting subsidy," Wangsu pointed out.

Stating that Arunachal is the second largest tea producer among the northeastern states after Assam, Wangsu requested the government to initiate measures to simplify the process of obtaining NOC from the forest ministry.

Responding to the resolution, Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein informed that the issue was decade-old and unless the Supreme Court order is lifted, getting certificate from Tea Board would be difficult.

He said to encourage tea and rubber cultivation, the state government had made budgetary provision of Rs 10 crore each to the sectors

by giving the farmers subsidized loans.

The deputy chief minister further informed that out of 3,410 small tea growers in the state only 62 were registered under the Tea Board.

Taking part in the discussion, senior BJP member C T Mein who is also a progressive farmer pointed out that the main problem faced by the tea growers are the Land Possession Certificate (LPC) which the Tea Board did not accept for registration. He said Tea Board provides subsidy to the tune of Rs 1.86 lakh per hectare.

Tagi Taki of BJP, participating in the discussion urged the government to pursue the Centre for getting relaxation in forest activities.

"Red-hot" England take on Japan for a quarterfinal spot

KOLKATA, Oct 16 (PTI): Title contenders England will look to continue their scintillating form and go past the first knockout hurdle when they take on Japan in the pre-quarterfinal of the FIFA Under-17 World Cup here tomorrow.

Eleven goals in three matches and second behind France (14 goals), England could not get a better start to their fourth U-17 World Cup campaign. They would now be eyeing the quarterfinals for the third time, but their first since Mexico-2011.

England have not progressed beyond last-eight stage in the tournament but this time the Young Lions look to last the distance, determined to follow up a summer of success for their country at the youth level.

England won the U-20 World Cup in Korea, made Euro U-21 last-four in Poland and then this side ended runners-up to Spain in the UEFA European U-17 Championships to qualify for this event, all earlier this year.

In the last edition in Chile-2015, a winless England failed to reach the knockout stage and capped a disappointing run with just one goal from three matches.

But this time, the Steve Cooper-coached side has made quite a statement, making them one of the front-runners in the 17th edition of the biennial tournament.

Having retained the crux of the side in the first two wins to seal a knockout berth, Cooper cleverly made eight

changes against Iraq, and yet came out flying with a 4-0 win in their final Group F game.

Seven England players -- Jadon Sancho (three goals), Angel Gomes and Daniel Loader (both two each), Emile Smith-Rowe, Philip Foden, Rhian Brewster and Calum Hudson-Odoi (all one each) -- were on target in three matches and that surely makes them one of the most lethal attacking sides in the tournament.

Of the 21 players on England roster, everyone, barring goalkeeper Josef Bursik, has had a match to their name and it will be a welcome selection headache for Cooper.

Right back Timothy Eyoma, who missed out against Iraq with a double booking, is all set for

a comeback in Cooper's four-man defensive lineup.

Physically strong like a brick wall, the Spurs teenager has impressed against Chile and Mexico and he will be a key man in their defence against Japan's attacking trio of Keito Nakamura, Taisei Miyashiro and Takefusa Kubo.

England's midfield pairing of Tashan Oakley-Boothe and George McEachran has been creative while Foden and Hudson-Odoi have been constant suppliers.

Manchester United starlet Gomes may lead the side once again. His jaw-dropping freekick conversion in the first match has been one of the talking points of the Young Lions campaign and he will be a big threat to the opposition.

Delhi Dynamos join hands with Special Olympics Bharat

NEW DELHI, Oct 16 (PTI): Indian Super League club Delhi Dynamos FC and Special Olympics Bharat have collaborated for promoting the initiative of inclusiveness in sports via football.

Global chairman of Special Olympics, Tim Shriver and the CEO of Delhi Dynamos FC, Ashish Shah were present to kick start the initiative via a unified football match between the Delhi Dynamos Soccer Schools and Special Olympics Bharat young athletes.

The Mission of Special Olympics is to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of sports for children and adults with intellec-

tual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in a sharing of gifts.

On the occasion, Shrive said: "We are extremely happy to associate with Delhi Dynamos FC on our mission to promote inclusiveness in sports. They are one of the most structured football clubs in the country and I hope together we can create awareness towards unified sports and spread joy to all the specially abled athletes of the country."

"India is one of our top performing countries at the Special Olympics and receiving support from elite clubs really helps our children

to receive relevant exposure and enhance their performance."

Delhi Dynamos CEO Shah said: "It is important that football reaches out to every individual and that was one of the primary reasons we decided to join hands with Special Olympics Bharat."

"The organisation has been doing a commendable job over the years by helping out these young kids and as a football club we believe that everyone has an equal right to play the sport and there shouldn't be any hindrances. With the help of Special Olympics Bharat, we want to put out the message that the beautiful game is inclusive of everyone," he said.

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Indian football team gains two places in FIFA rankings

NEW DELHI, OCT 16 (PTI): The Indian football team today received a boost in FIFA rankings, a week after qualifying for the 2019 AFC Asian Cup by moving up two places to be at the 105th spot.

The 'Blue Tigers' were ranked 107th last month but they are now at 105th in the latest rankings, courtesy their win over Macau in the AFC Asian Cup 2019 qualifiers last week.

With 328 ranking points, India are just a rung below Zimbabwe and one spot above Niger.

Among the Asian Football Confederation countries, India are at 14th spot.

The 4-1 win over Macau on October 11 saw India qualify for the 2019 AFC Asian Cup in the UAE.

FIFA confirms 8 top-seeded teams in World Cup draw

ZURICH, OCT 16 (AP): FIFA has confirmed the seven highest-ranked nations joining host Russia as top-seeded teams in the World Cup finals draw.

France rises one place to No. 7 to edge out Spain, as defending champion Germany heads an unchanged top six.

After a busy qualifying program last week, Brazil, Portugal, Argentina, Belgium and Poland are also top-seeded for the December 1 draw in Moscow.

FIFA uses October rankings to decide all four seeding pots despite nine places in the 32-team World Cup finals lineup to be decided in November.

Russia is top-seeded for the World Cup despite being ranked No. 65. Chile at No. 9 is the highest-ranked team eliminated from the World Cup.

Mexico at No. 16 heads CONCACAF teams. The eliminated United States is No. 27. Tunisia at No. 28 is Africa's best, and No. 34 Iran leads Asia.

Rani Rampal to lead India in women's Asia Cup

NEW DELHI, OCT 16 (PTI): Striker Rani Rampal will captain an 18-member Indian team at the ninth women's Asia Cup hockey tournament, which starts from October 28 at Kakamigahara City, Japan.

Senior goalkeeper Savita has been named as the vice- captain of the side.

The team selected by Hockey India for the upcoming Asia Cup has five changes from their Europe Tour of Netherlands and Belgium.

Experienced defender Sushila Chanu Pukhrambam makes a comeback into the team while forwards Navneet Kaur, Navjot Kaur and Sonika have also been included.

Apart from the inclusions, the goal will be kept by Savita and Raja-



ni Etimarpu while Deep Grace Ekka, Sunita Lakra, Suman Devi Thoudam and Gurjit Kaur will man the defence.

The midfield will feature Namita Toppo, Nikki Pradhan, Monika, Lili-ma Minz and Neha Goyal while Rani,

Vandana Katariya and Lalremsiami will feature in the forward line.

This will be the first for new head coach Harendra Singh with the Indian eves and he would be looking towards a strong performance in Japan with qualification for next year's Hockey women's World Cup London 2018 being his top priority.

"We have a very good blend of youth and experience within our team which will help us in negating the tasks ahead of us at the women's Asia Cup. The team has played against higher ranked teams in the build-up to the tournament which has helped us in improving our game.

"We have made several minors adjustments and improvements in

our game so that we don't repeat unforced errors in our play. We will be aiming to win the women's Asia Cup 2017 in order to qualify for next year's World Cup," said Harendra.

Captain Rani too is confident that the team can perform up to its potential at the women's Asia Cup.

"We have made improvements in our game wherever it was necessary. I feel the team is playing well as a unit and there is a good sense of cohesion in our squad. We are looking forward to performing well in Japan so that we can qualify for the World Cup," she said.

India have been placed in Pool A alongside China, Malaysia and Singapore and will start their campaign against Singapore on October 28.

Iraq face acid test against Mali in U-17 WC pre-quarters



MICHAEL SEQUEIRA

MARGAO, OCT 16 (PTI): Last edition's runner-up Mali will enjoy an upperhand over a gutsy Iraq in a tricky pre-quarterfinal match of the FIFA U-17 World Cup, here tomorrow.

Two-time champions Mali have had a good performance so far though they finished runners-up in Group B. They lost to eventual group toppers Paraguay in a narrow 2-3 result but came back strongly to win convincingly against Turkey (3-0) and New Zealand (3-1) to finish with six points.

The African side's speedy run down the flanks and stronger physique will pose a lot of threat for the Iraqi defence and it will be interesting to see how

the Lions of Mesopotamia, who will be playing without their star player and captain Mohammed Dawood tomorrow, counter the Mali attackers.

For Mali strikers Lassana Ndiaye and Djemoussa Traore have combined well upfront and have posed threats to their opponents' defence with their speedy runs but have been found wanting in front of the goal as they have wasted a lot of scoring chances.

Attacking midfielder Salim Jidhou will keep the Mali offensive moves going along with Hadji Drame who look dangerous on either flank.

The biggest concern for Mali is their defence which was exposed by Paraguay and it is to be

seen how the Iraqis take advantage in the absence of their star striker Mohammed Dawood.

Iraq finished runners-up in Group F behind England. They drew their first match against Mexico 1-1, then came up with a top class performance to beat Chile 3-0 before losing to England 0-4 to finish on four points.

It was a disappointing match for the Asian champions against England as they were not only drubbed 0-4 but also lost captain Mohammed Dawood for tomorrow's match after he received a yellow card in the 62nd minute, his second in the tournament.

Dawood has been the inspiration in the attack and was the

leading scorer for his side with three goals and his absence will surely be felt tomorrow.

Iraq have returned to the place where they played last year to win the Asian U-16 Championships. They have been good only on patches and their coach Qahtan Chathir would be hoping that his boys give their best tomorrow.

They have a reason to give an inspiring performance tomorrow as this has been their first ever knock-out stage qualification in this tournament. Iraq have featured in the FIFA U-17 World Cup only once earlier, at UAE 2013. That experience was not particularly memorable as they finished last in their group losing all their three matches.



OGQ ropes in seven foreign coaches

MUMBAI, OCT 16 (PTI): Seven foreign coaches in four disciplines have been roped in by the Olympic Gold Quest (OGQ), an outfit founded by sports icons Prakash Padukone and Geet Sethi, to train 80 junior and senior sportspersons within the country and overseas.

This has been done as OGQ's research and experience over the last two Olympic cycles "has shown that foreign coaches bring in invaluable knowledge on the techniques, strategies and training methods used by top athletes worldwide which is important to implement in training of our Indian athletes as they prepare for the Olympic Games", a media release from OGQ said today.

More than 40 of these

trainees are being supported by OGQ, the release said.

The foreign coaches appointed by OGQ are: Charles Atkinson of England for boxing, Kim Hagyoung of Korea for archery, Vladimer Mestvirishvili of Georgia for wrestling as well as Kim Seonil (Korea), Munkhbayar Dorjsuren (born in Mongolia but a German citizen) Lazzslo Szuzak (Hungary) and Anton Belak (Slovak Republic) for shooting.

OGQ, a not-for-profit foundation, has been established to help Indian athletes win Olympic Gold medals. OGQ raises donation from fans, individuals and organisations to support training of senior and junior Indian athletes who have a potential of winning an Olympic medal.

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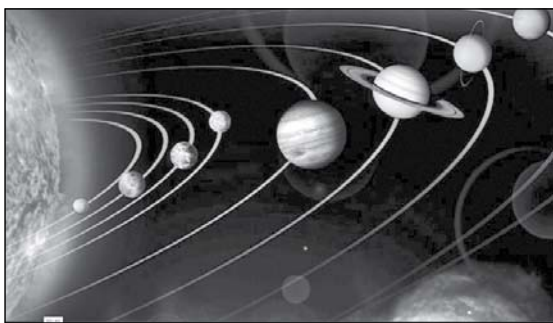
Planet Nine does exist in solar system: NASA

WASHINGTON, OCT 16 (PTI): The elusive 'Planet Nine' does exist, and may be 10 times the mass of the Earth and 20 times away from the Sun than Neptune, NASA scientists say.

Planet Nine could turn out to be our solar system's missing 'super Earth' - a planet with a mass higher than the Earth's, but substantially lower than the masses of ice giants Uranus and Neptune.

The signs so far are indirect, mainly its gravitational footprints, but that adds up to a compelling case, they said.

"There are now five different lines of observational evidence pointing to the existence of Planet Nine," said Konstantin Batygin, a planetary astrophysicist at California Institute of Technology



(Caltech) in the US.

"If you were to remove this explanation and imagine Planet Nine does not exist, then you generate more problems than you solve. All of a sudden, you have five different puzzles, and you must come up

with five different theories to explain them," said Batygin.

Six known objects in the distant Kuiper Belt, a region of icy bodies stretching from Neptune outward towards interstellar space, all have elliptical orbits pointing in the

same direction, researchers said.

However, these orbits also are tilted the same way, about 30 degrees "downward" compared to the pancake-like plane within which the planets orbit the Sun, they said.

Computer simulations of the solar system with Planet Nine included show there should be more objects tilted with respect to the solar plane.

The tilt would be on the order of 90 degrees, as if the plane of the solar system and these objects formed an "X" when viewed edge-on.

Caltech graduate student, Elizabeth Bailey, showed that Planet Nine could have tilted the planets of our solar system during the last 4.5 billion years.

In the study published in the

Astronomical Journal, researchers wondered why the plane in which the planets orbit is tilted about 6 degrees compared to the Sun's equator.

"Over long periods of time, Planet Nine will make the entire solar-system plane precess or wobble, just like a top on a table," Batygin said.

The last telltale sign of Planet Nine's presence involves the solar system's contrarians: objects from the Kuiper Belt that orbit in the opposite direction from everything else in the solar system, researchers said.

Planet Nine's orbital influence would explain why these bodies from the distant Kuiper Belt end up "polluting" the inner Kuiper Belt, they said.

"No other model can explain

the weirdness of these high-inclination orbits," Batygin said.

"It turns out that Planet Nine provides a natural avenue for their generation. These things have been twisted out of the solar system plane with help from Planet Nine and then scattered inward by Neptune," said Batygin.

"The possibility of a new planet is certainly an exciting one for me as a planetary scientist and for all of us," said Jim Green, director of NASA's Planetary Science Division.

"This is not, however, the detection or discovery of a new planet," said Green.

"What we're seeing is an early prediction based on modelling from limited observations. It's the start of a process that could lead to an exciting result," he said.

Boat carrying Rohingya Muslims capsizes, killing at least 12

DHAKA, OCT 16 (AP):

An overcrowded boat carrying Rohingya Muslims fleeing Myanmar capsized today in the Bay of Bengal near a Bangladeshi fishing village, killing 12 people, including six children, police said.

Survivors of the capsizing told local officials that up to 65 people were on board and almost half of them were children, local police official Sheikh Ashrafuzzaman said.

He said villagers told police they recovered five bodies and at least 21 people survived.

Including today's capsizing, boat accidents have killed at least 184 Rohingya trying to reach Bangladesh.

Hundreds of thousands of Rohingya have fled Myanmar since August 25, when the military launched a crackdown decried by the United Nations as "ethnic cleansing."

Myanmar's military has said it launched clearance operations in response to terrorist attacks, but the UN and others have said Myanmar's response was disproportionate. The refugees have described widespread and indiscriminate violence and arsons.

Set for second term in power, Xi may eye unprecedented third

KJM VARMA

BEIJING, OCT 16 [PTI]: Firmly in the saddle to begin his second term with immense powers at this week's key Congress of the ruling Communist Party, Chinese President Xi Jinping may set his sight for unprecedented third term, observers say.

The once-in-a-five-year Congress of the Communist Party of China [CPC], which will begin here from October 18, was expected to confirm the second five-year term of Xi in line with the convention of two terms for the top leaders, followed by the party since 2002, after which they retire.

During the 18th Congress, which was held around the same time five years ago, the then President Hu Jintao and Premier Wen Jiabao had overseen an orderly transfer of power adhering to the conventional two terms and handed over the power to Xi, who was then the Vice President.

Till then Xi, 64, a princeling as his father was former Vice Premier Xi Zhongxun, rose steadily in the party ranks maintaining a low profile.

He was first elected as the General Secretary of the CPC during the



18th Congress and President of the country, later firmed up his power base after the outgoing leader Hu handed over the coveted position of head of the military to Xi.

Starting his tenure with three powerful posts, Xi consolidated his position using the massive anti-corruption campaign against high ranking as well as middle and lower rung officials and top leaders. Over 1.34 officials have been punished in the anti-graft campaign.

Such was the consolidation of power of Xi specially enhancing his powers in the military that Premier Li Keqiang, 62 and other leaders who were elected along with him in 2012, took a backseat toning down their profile in public, observers say. It is perhaps for the first time in 15 years, a Chinese leader will begin his second term after in power for five years, heading the three power centres.

Hu was made the head of the

Central Military Commission [CMC], the overall command of the 2.3 million strong world's largest Chinese military midway through his first terms, where Xi virtually started his first tenure with it, which enabled him to clean-up the People's Liberation Army [PLA], purging over 40 top Generals and punished 13,000 other personnel in the anti-graft campaign.

As the Party is set to begin its 19th Congress on Wednesday, all eyes are on whether Xi will follow another widely followed convention of the party to groom a successor.

While the Congress is expected to further reinforce power base of Xi, who has already been named by the party as a "core leader" like party founder Mao Zedong and his successor Deng Xiaoping, observers say it is to be seen whether he will break the convention and pave the way for his third term.

For that the attention of Beijing-based diplomats and foreign media was on Wang Qishan, the 69-year-old close confidant of Xi who ruthlessly carried out the anti-graft campaign.

As per the convention of the retirement age limit of 68 set for the CPC officials, Wang should retire as he already surpassed it. But it is to be seen whether he will continue for another term which will in turn pave the way for Xi in the 20th Congress to continue in power as he too will cross retirement age by that time.

Or he could continue to be in power heading the powerful Central Military Commission [CMC] after 2022 by handing over post of general secretary and presidency to the next generation leaders.

Also, the national and international attention will be on who the party is going to pick for the seven member Standing Committee which literally rules the country and whether there will be a hint for a successor.

Currently, Xi is the only civilian in the 11-member CMC.

Xi was nominated to the committee during the second term of his predecessor, Hu. Observers say the hints to be watched in the 19th Congress will be whether any of the party leaders will be projected to be inducted into the CMC.

Israel says strikes Syrian anti-aircraft battery in response to fire

JERUSALEM, OCT 16

[AFP]: Israel's military said today it carried out an air strike on an anti-aircraft battery in Syria east of Damascus after it fired toward its planes.

Israeli planes were on what the military described as a routine reconnaissance mission over neighbouring Lebanon when an anti-aircraft missile was fired in their direction, a military spokesman said.

The planes returned safely, according to the



spokesman, adding it was believed the anti-aircraft battery in Syria was destroyed. "We hold the Syrian regime responsible for

the anti-aircraft fire and any attack originating from Syria," Israeli military spokesman Jonathan Conricus told journalists.

Israel's military said it had no intention to escalate the situation further.

Israel has sought to avoid becoming more directly involved in the six-year civil war in neighbouring Syria, though it acknowledges carrying out dozens of air strikes to stop what it calls advanced arms deliveries to Hezbollah.

The Lebanese Shiite group is backing Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's regime in the conflict.

Israel and Hezbollah fought a devastating war in 2006.

Today's strike comes with Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu due to visit Israel later in the day. Russia is also backing Assad in the Syrian conflict.

Russia and Israel have established a hotline to avoid accidental clashes in Syria.

Defence Minister Sitharaman commissions INS Kiltan

VISAKHAPATNAM, OCT 16 [PTI]:

Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman today commissioned the indigenously-built anti-submarine warfare stealth corvette INS Kiltan here, describing it as a "shining armour" in the country's 'Make in India' programme.

Kiltan is the latest indigenous warship after Shivalik class, Kolkata class and sister ships INS Kamorta and INS Kadmat to have joined the Indian Navy's arsenal wherein a plethora of weapons and sensors have been integrated to provide a Common Operational Picture [COP], an official release said.

It is India's first ma-

jor warship to have a superstructure of carbon fibre composite material resulting in improved stealth features, lower top weight and maintenance costs, it said.

Navy chief Admiral Sunil Lanba, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Eastern Naval Command H S Bisht and other senior officers attended the commissioning of INS Kiltan at the Naval Dockyard at the Eastern Naval Command here.

On the occasion, Sitharaman said the Centre was committed to achieving self-reliance in the defence sector on the concept of 'Make in India' and was taking all measures in this regard.

CBI faces HC flak in missing JNU student case

NEW DELHI, OCT 16 (PTI): CBI today faced flak from the Delhi High Court for its "complete lack of interest" and not showing any result in its probe into the disappearance of JNU student Najeeb Ahmed, five months after being handed over the investigation.

Najeeb (27), a student of M.Sc Biotechnology, had gone missing from the Mahi-Mandvi hostel of the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) on October 15 last year following a scuffle with some other students, allegedly affiliated to the Sangh Parivar student wing Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), the previous night.

A bench of Justices G S Sistani and Chandrer Shekhar said during arguments, it was "very unhappy" with CBI after contradictions appeared in what was orally submitted in the court and what it has indicated in its status report.

The contradictions appeared on the issue of analysis of the calls and messages of the suspect students in the case.

When the court was told that the status report was prepared by an Inspector in CBI, the bench said as per its May 16 order, transferring probe to the agency, an officer of rank not less than DIG has to supervise the investigation.

"What sort of supervision is this? If this supervision by the DIG, then what would happen if there is no supervision? Does the DIG read what the Inspector has said in the report? He probably does not get time to read reports there (in office). Let him come here and read it then" the court said.

The bench further said that "there is nothing on the status report (by CBI). There was more in the Delhi Police reports. We are saying there is complete lack of interest (by CBI). There is no result either way. No result even on paper."

The bench said the CBI was "inviting these observations" by its own conduct and gave it time till November 14 to file a report stating what it has found after analysing the call data records of the nine students suspected of being behind Najeeb's disappearance.

The scathing remarks by the bench came after CBI in its report said the calls and messages of the suspects were "being analysed", while in its oral submission it claimed that the call data records have already been analysed.

"Then why have you not said what you found in your analysis," an angry bench asked the CBI and warned that it would direct its DIG, who was to supervise the probe, to

be present in court.

The CBI was also directed to move an application in the court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM) for an early hearing of its plea, which has been adjourned to January 24, 2018, for seeking consent of the suspect students for a polygraph test.

The bench also gave directions to the CMM not to give such long dates in pleas for polygraph tests, especially in such a matter where there is urgency, saying it would defeat the purpose.

The court told CBI that even family members of the missing student can undergo polygraph, not just the suspects.

After over a month had passed since Najeeb went missing, his mother had moved the High Court on November 25 last year, seeking directions to the police to trace her son.

The high court had immediately directed the Delhi Police to "explore all angles" and "cut across political barriers" to trace the young man, saying no one could just vanish from the heart of the national capital.

However, as the police were clueless about Najeeb's whereabouts even after seven months since he went missing, the probe was hand-

ed over to CBI on May 16, 2017.

There months later in August when CBI failed to file a fresh progress report in the case, the high court had rebuked it,

saying the probe was not transferred to the agency "for fun".

On September 6, the court again directed the CBI to take steps to trace Najeeb.

Anthyesthi Kriya



The Anthyesthi Kriya of **Late Smt Hari Maya Pradhan**, permanent resident of Rhenock Bazar, presently residing at Arithang, Gangtok, who left for her heavenly abode on October 7, 2017 falls on **October 18, 2017**. All family, friends and well-wishers

are requested to kindly join us for offering of departed soul at **Chokasum Hall, Nam Nang, Gangtok**. We also take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude towards those who has extended their support during the time of the bereavement.

Mingma Bhutia, Nima Bhutia, Dawa Bhutia (Sons), Phuphama Shrestha, Neelam Bhutia, Neelu, Bhutia, Ningmu Bhutia (Daughters), Krishna Chettri, Yankee Bhutia (Daughters-in-law), Bhusan Pradhan, Suraj Kr. Chettri (Sons-in-law), Chung Chung Bhutia (Granddaughter), Daniel Bhutia (Grandson)

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58378 62484 83107 91675 99193

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5th Prize Rs.250/- 0136 0194 0923 2120 4996 8949 9029 9134 9367 9634

6th Prize Rs.120/-

0066 0121 0132 0448 0533 0542 0574 0670 0684 0797

0864 0915 1002 1147 1503 1519 1777 1959 2008 2070

2136 2149 2529 2660 2888 3036 3078 3371 3651 3781

3920 3929 3971 4044 4135 4185 4223 4250 4335 4362

4396 4426 4475 4562 4710 4811 5170 5288 5355 5499

5532 5547 5568 5599 5704 5705 5717 6048 6049 6137

6552 6559 6674 6846 6861 6932 6933 7229 7285 7373

7598 7646 7651 7690 7815 8026 8124 8181 8219 8270

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3rd Prize Rs.9,000/-

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24500 45757 70800 72576 94413

4th Prize Rs.500/- 0421 0588 0834 0953 1357 1374 1486 6926 8752 9703

5th Prize Rs.250/- 1482 1509 2379 3230 3684 4480 5903 6724 8140 8542

6th Prize Rs.120/-

0061 0285 0405 0469 0485 0526 0596 0629 0634 0657

0822 0917 0946 0969 1013 1021 1348 1454 1474 1510

1554 1908 2018 2110 2299 2312 2370 2428 2471 2490

2609 2638 2906 2910 2931 2934 3102 3243 3294 3308

3350 3420 3628 3661 3805 4120 4394 4471 4695 4772

4919 4926 5156 5314 5328 5398 5535 5539 5557 5670

5674 5716 5736 6056 6445 6546 6647 6696 7028 7079

7084 7237 7310 7315 7345 7444 7645 7748 7852 8130

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WISDOM OF SUNDAYS!

Oprah Winfrey held a gospel brunch celebrating her new book "Wisdom of Sundays" in Montecito, California.

PADMAVATI IN TROUBLE AS JAI RAJPUTANA SANGH ISSUES FRESH THREATS!

A fringe Rajput group, Jai Rajputana Sangh, had given out a threat that if they are not shown Padmavati, they will not allow the movie to release properly and will burn cinema halls that screen the theatres.

Bhanwar Singh Reta, founder, Jai Rajputana Sangh spoke to Hindustan Times, saying, "We won't tolerate

any distortion of history and if any romantic relationship is shown between queen Padmavati and Alauddin Khilji, we will burn cinema halls screening the film. Our members are trained in handling a large array of weapons ranging from swords to AK 47 guns. We won't let anyone dishonour Padmavati and insult the people of Rajasthan."

The said group consists of 2.65 lakh members.

In the morning today another incident happened when an artist, who goes by the name Karan K, had painstakingly recreated the poster of Deepika Padukone as Padmavati. It took 48 hours for him to make the rangoli, but it took mere minutes for the vandals to ruin it. The artist, who also men-

tions himself as an actor, writer as well as a future doctor in his Twitter bio, had tweeted about the incident along with the pictures of the rangoli he had created, and its ruined state. He mentions that a crowd of about 100 people came to the site, chanting 'JAY SRI RAM' and rubbed out his efforts of so many hours.

Varun Dhawan to get waxed for a Hong Kong museum!

Gen-next star, Varun Dhawan, is quite literally, on a roll. After delivering two back-to-back Rs 100 crore films with Badrinath Ki Dulhania and Judwaa 2, the 30-year old actor has added one more feather to his hat. Varun is all set to be the next and the youngest celebrity to have his statue at a popular wax museum in Hong Kong.

The SOTY actor will join the figurines of Mahatma Gandhi, PM Narendra Modi and Amitabh Bachchan at the museum. Over the past two decades, B-Town celebs like Shah Rukh Khan, Salman Khan, Hrithik Roshan, Katrina Kaif, Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, Kareena Kapoor Khan and Madhuri Dixit-Nene have been immortalised through wax statues.

A group of the sculpting team flew down to Mumbai to take the measurements of the actor, which included matching his hair and eye colour for the statue.

Expressing his happiness on getting a wax statue of his own, Varun Dhawan, was quoted in a BombayTimes report as saying that, "It was a great experience. I am so excited to get my wax figure in Hong Kong."

During an interview with a leading portal, while talking about his career chart, Varun had said, "Initially, I used to be very hyper and competitive in my career. But I feel I haven't been like that in the last three years. I have changed in that sense. I have seen how the business has been evolving and today, I want every film to do well and even better than



Judwaa 2. I want the films of every person I am compared to and am reportedly in competition with to do better than me. We are an industry, and we are all in this together and can't survive without each other. I feel it is high time we realise that. If we go against each other, or if we get happiness from other people's

fall, then there is no way we will move ahead."

Varun is currently shooting for Shoojit Sircar's October in Delhi. Post wrapping the film, he will kickstart YRF's Sui-Dhaaga along with Anushka Sharma.

Are you excited for the unveiling of Varun Dhawan's wax figure?

Joe Jonas & Sophie Turner Engaged!

Sansa Stark may have a horrible track record with love, but her alter ego Sophie Turner just sealed the deal with the man of her dreams! Joe Jonas popped the question to the 'Game of Thrones' star, who happily showed off her gorgeous rock on Sunday.

Sophie Turner, 21, and Joe Jonas, 28, are getting hitched! The Game of Thrones star and "Cake By The Ocean" singer have been dating for a while now and appear to be deeply in love. But that didn't keep us from practically falling over when Sophie announced on 15 Oct that she had, in fact, "said yes," to her beau's proposal. Both Joe and Sophie posted a pic of her wearing a pear-shaped diamond engagement ring and matching eternity band to their respective Instagram accounts, clearly thrilled to show off their big news.

We don't know how he did it yet or when, but we cannot wait to find out! While the couple hasn't been dating for a super long time, they have been practically attached at the hip since going public with their romance. Sophie and the DNCE singer have been linked since at least Dec 2016, though they have kept their relationship fairly private for a Hollywood couple.

"I am very happy," she told Marie Claire of dating Joe, in their August issue. "You do feel like you're living in a fishbowl [though]... It's frustrating [that] it's the most mundane things that make the news - how boring! There are really no other headlines!" Well, we hate to break it to you Sophie, but now that you've gone public with your engaged you are definitely gonna be the talk of the town. But in a good way!

We can't wait to see what the future holds for this couple and we wish them all the happiness in the world and so does Joe's brother Nick, 25!

"Ahh! Congratulations to my brother... and sister in law to be on your engagement. I love you both so much. @joejonas @SophieT", Joe's younger sibling tweeted after the couple broke the news.

Joe will be the second Jonas Brother to get married, with his older sibling Kevin,



29, having tied the knot with Danielle Deleasa, 31, in 2009.



17TH OCT

WORLD HISTORY

1907: The first commercial wireless telegraph is sent over the Atlantic Ocean.

1931: Scarface Al Capone well known gangster is found guilty of income tax evasion.

1933: Dr Albert Einstein and his wife fleeing from Nazi Germany arrive in Princeton, New Jersey.

1943: The 415-km Thailand Burma railroad [Death Railway] between Bangkok, Thailand and Rangoon, Burma is completed.

1947: Britain and Burma signed an agreement today giving Burma full independence outside of the British Commonwealth if it chooses thus ending 300 years of British Rule over the country.

1956: Queen Elizabeth II officially opens Sellafield Nuclear Power Station although the power station had been providing electricity to the National Grid since 27 Aug. 1956.

1961: Paris Police shoot and kill more than 200 Algerians marching in the city in support of peace talks to end their country's war of independence against France.

1998: A pipeline explosion in Jesse,

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

Dr. RAJEN UPADHYAY
Assistant Professor in History,
Namchi Govt. College

Nigeria, kills 700 people with the resulting fire burning for nearly a week.

2011: Richard Branson opens the world's first commercial spaceport, Spaceport America, in the U.S. state of New Mexico.

2012: Uruguay became the second Latin American country to legalize abortion.

2013: Two convicted murderers Joseph Jenkins and Charles Walker, in a Florida prison were accidentally released after forged paperwork ordering their release was mistaken as real.

Indian History
1947: Simi Garewal, Hindi film actress and TV host, was born.

1970: Indian cricketer Anil Kumble was born.

LOCKHORNS

- HOEST & REINER



ARCTIC CIRCLE

- HALLATT



BABY BLUES

- KIRKMAN & SCOTT



SCORPIO: With the current aspects, you can expect positive job changes. You've worked hard these past few months and contributed important ideas. Don't be surprised if you get rewarded with recognition, raise, or promotion. Go out and celebrate with friends tonight. You deserve a night on the town. Nothing would give you more pleasure than treating your loved ones to dinner. **SAGITTARIUS:** Take care that you don't exhaust yourself. You could be doing too much for others right now. Your kind heart and generous nature often have you saying yes to requests when you should be refusing. Today you might want to rethink any obli-

gations. Think of it this way - you're not saying no to someone else, you're saying yes to yourself!

CAPRICORN: Today you hit the ground running. You're happy, energetic, and optimistic. You feel love for all mankind. Don't be surprised if this brings new people into your life. You can't blame them for wanting to be around you. You're looking as good as you feel. You can feel the eyes following you as you walk down the street. Enjoy the attention! **AQUARIUS:** You're a traditionalist at heart and happy to do the same thing year in and year out. Your partner could be tiring of the old routine. Today your friend

may want to do things differently. There's no need to be traumatized by this change. You might discover some new traditions that you can add to the old. Be flexible. You won't regret keeping an open mind. **PISCES:** The love you feel for everyone today draws new people into your orbit. You're in love with all, even people you couldn't stand yesterday. If you're in sales or a field that puts you in contact with many people, you can expect extraordinary success. People will do whatever it takes and pay any amount of money to connect with you. This applies to your personal life, too.

ARIES: You have a gentle way of expressing yourself to your loved one. It isn't your style to make grand gestures or buy extravagant gifts. You prefer to spend quality time together, talking and cuddling. Today you may be in an unusually romantic mood and confess the depth of your feelings. This will have just the effect you hope for! **TAURUS:** You may be expecting some visitors. Happy as you are about this, you may be feeling overwhelmed by what remains to be done. Pace yourself. These friends are coming to see you, not check under the beds for dust bunnies. It's more important to enjoy their com-

pany than stress about housekeeping minutia. Leave some time to relax so you're refreshed for their visit. **GEMINI:** Your energy level is at an all-time high, so you may work harder than usual. You could be inspired to work around the house, cleaning, repairing, and straightening up. Visitors may drop by unexpectedly this evening. Even though you weren't planning on having company for dinner, the house is in good shape and you play the host beautifully. **CANCER:** A shift in responsibilities may be needed at home. You or your partner may need more help with household tasks or want to ab-

rogate responsibility for all the daily errands. Everyday chores can stress even the happiest of families. Try to work together to devise a plan that allows you to get everything done and still enjoy some fun together. **LEO:** Expect to hear some great news today. Some distant relatives may call to say they're coming for a visit. Or you could find out about a trip that you and your family will take in the near future. Your spirits soar with the news, and you spread your excitement and positive spirit to others. **VIRGO:** You have a keen mind and you're thirsty for knowledge. A recent accomplishment may make you look for the next challenge.

Consider looking to your hobbies for the next big thing in your life. The little side projects that you enjoy working on could lead to a new field. You're especially suited to research-oriented fields. You're bound to succeed. **LIBRA:** You may be feeling nostalgic for old friends and faraway family. Even if you haven't spoken to them in a while, pick up the phone and call them up. All signs indicate that anyone you talk to today will be very glad to hear from you. You'll be surprised by how much you have in common. The conversation picks up right where you left off last time.